

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SAM-01

SAB-01 /066 W

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P 201218Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 2719

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN SAUDI ARABIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN PRIORITY

COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

CNO WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 061

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MARR, BA

SUBJECT : DEPCINCEUR VISIT TO BAHRAIN

1. IN MORNING STOP IN BAHRAIN JANUARY 20, GENERAL HUYSER
MADE COURTESY CALL ON AMIR, ACCOMPANIED BY STAFF MEMBERS,
CMEF AND AMBASSADOR.

2. IN CHARACTERISTICALLY CORDIAL MEETING, AMIR MADE FAMILIAR
POINTS: (1) IMPORTANCE BAHRAIN ATTACHES TO FRIENDLIEST
RELATIONS WITH USG; (2) HIS CONCERN RE SOVIET INTENTIONS IN
MIDDLE EAST AND PARTICULAR WORRY THAT DELAYS IN ACHIEVING
MIDDLE EAST PEACE AND RELATED DETERIORATION OF POLITICAL
SITUATION IN ARAB COUNTRIES SUCH AS LEBANON WILL GIVE SOVIETS
ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO SUBVERT ARAB STATES; (3) BAHRAIN'S
DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL GULF STATES AND GRATIFICATION
AT U.S. SUPPORT FOR SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN IN INTEREST OF GULF
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SECURITY; (4) HIS CONCERN THAT IRAN AND ARAB STATES OF GULF

ARE OVER-ARMING, CREATING MILITARY FORCES IN EXCESS OF REAL NEEDS AND POSSIBLY DEVELOPING A THREAT TO, RATHER THAN A BUTTRESS OF, REGIONAL AND INTERNAL SECURITY.

3. GENERAL HUYSER MADE MOST EFFECTIVE AND HELPFUL PRESENTATION ON U.S.-SOVIET MILITARY BALANCE WITH PARTICULAR STRESS ON SOVIET ROLE IN IRAQ AND SOMALIA AND GROWING SOVIET NAVY PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN. GENERAL HUYSER ALSO NOTED THAT IRAN'S MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROMPTED BY COMMON BORDER WITH SOVIET UNION, NOT JUST IRANIAN ROLE IN GULF AND INDIAN OCEAN.

4. IN EXPRESSING U.S. APPRECIATION FOR BAHRAIN'S LONG-STANDING HOSPITALITY TO MIDDLE EAST FORCE, GENERAL HUYSER NOTED WIDE REGIONAL IMPORTANCE OF MIDDLE EAST FORCE ROLE IN LIGHT OF SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA. GENERAL HUYSER MENTIONED BENEFIT TO AREA SECURITY WHICH CONTINUED U.S. NAVY PRESENCE IN AREA WOULD BRING AND INDICATED U.S. NAVY'S USE OF BAHRAIN FACILITIES OBVIOUSLY FACILITATED PERFORMANCE OF THIS ROLE. AMIR IN RESPONSE FUMBLING A BIT, STATING PLEASURE WHICH BAHRAIN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. NAVY HAD GIVEN HIM AND HIS WISH THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE U.S. NAVY PRESENCE. HE THEN IMMEDIATELY COMMENTED ON UNCERTAIN AND TROUBLING PROSPECTS FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE.

5. AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: GENERAL HUYSER'S VISIT HERE WAS QUITE HELPFUL AND I BELIEVE SINCERELY APPRECIATED BY AMIR. EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION ON U.S.- SOVIET MILITARY BALANCE, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON INDIAN OCEAN AREA, WAS ESPECIALLY USEFUL. IN MY VIEW, HE HIT EXACTLY THE RIGHT NOTE WITH AMIR IN REFERRING TO DESIRABILITY OF U.S. NAVY'S BEING ABLE TO CONTINUE USING FACILITIES IN BAHRAIN, BUT I DO NOT INTERPRET THE AMIR'S EFFORT TO SAY THE "NICE THING" IN RESPONSE AS INDICATING IN ITSELF ANY CHANGE OR PROSPECT OF CHANGE IN GOB DECISION THAT MIDDLE EAST FORCE SHOULD TERMINATE BY MID-1977. END COMMENT

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